

## **Project PHAEDRA 2006**

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology in the ancient ocean

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**NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration** 



## Project PHAEDRA

- Partnership for Hellenic/American Exploration in the Deep Regions of the Aegean
- Ocean Exploration Signature Expedition
  - NOAA web site coordinator
  - Data manager
- Also a technology development showcase
  - Instruments funded by OE
  - AUVs are of strong interest to NOAA

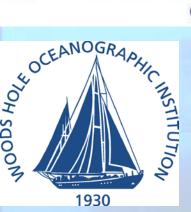


#### A Diverse Team









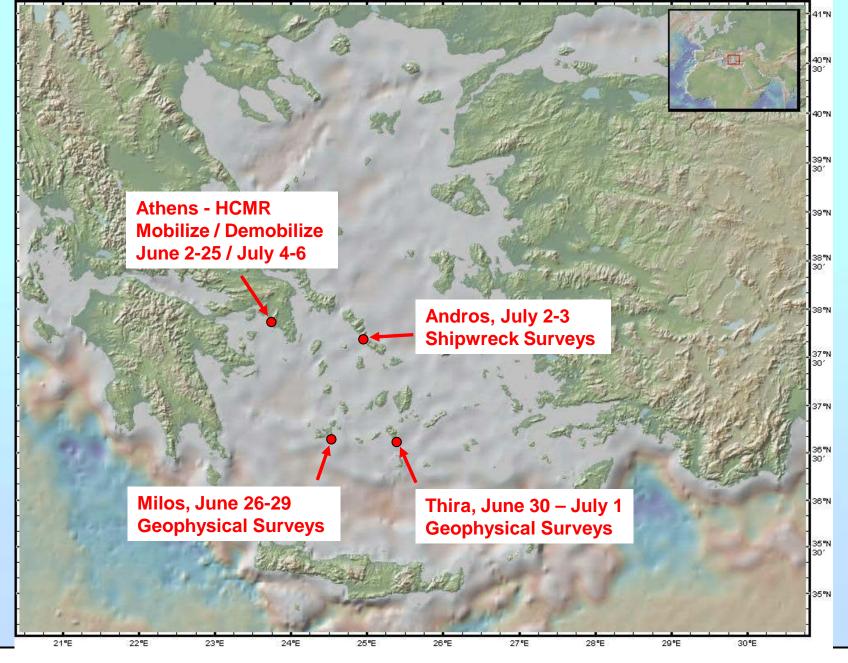






- Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
- Euphorate of Underwater Antiquities
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Olin College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts institute of Technology
- NOAA





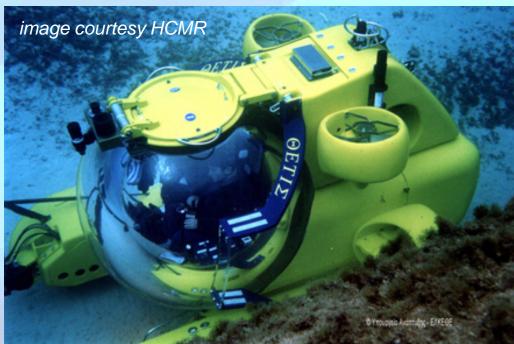








## **Undersea Systems**

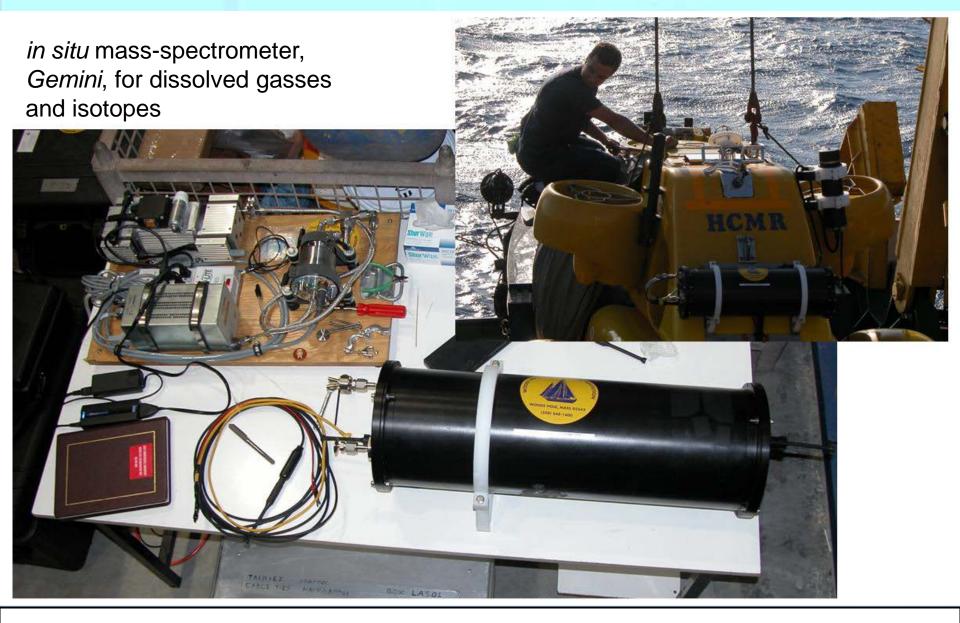


**HCMR 2-person submersible, Thetis** 

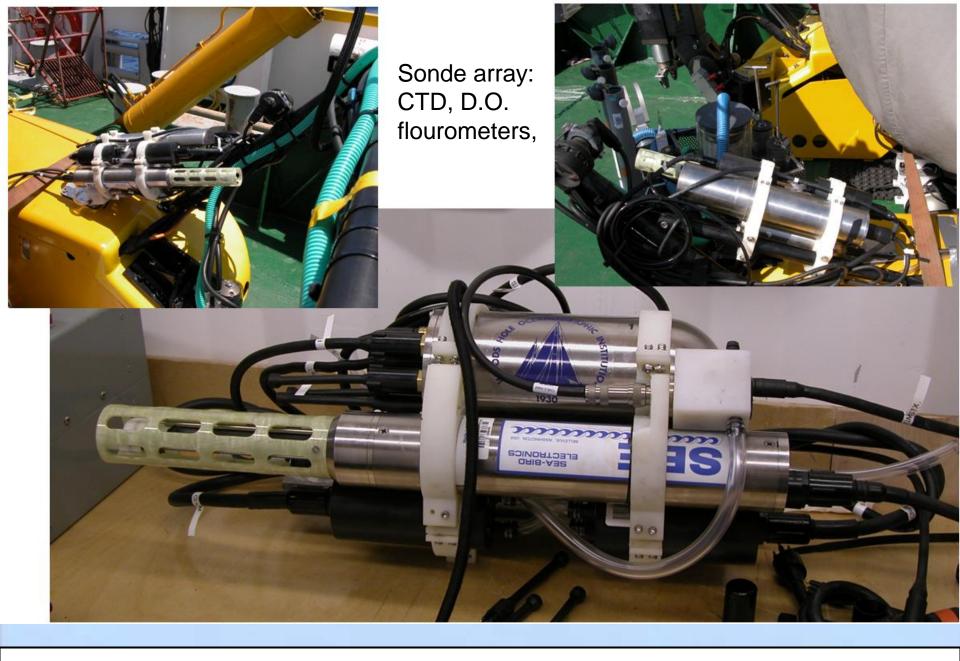
WHOI AUV, SeaBED



#### **New Instrumentation on Thetis**









## Sampling

- Nisken Bottles
  - Ground truth mass-spec
- "Slurp gun"
  - Collect biological samples
- Push cores
  - Collect sediment samples









## **Precision Navigation**



Long Baseline (LBL) acoustic transponders

Precise timing to GPS PPS signal

**Doppler Velocity Log** 

Acoustic modem for one-way travel time







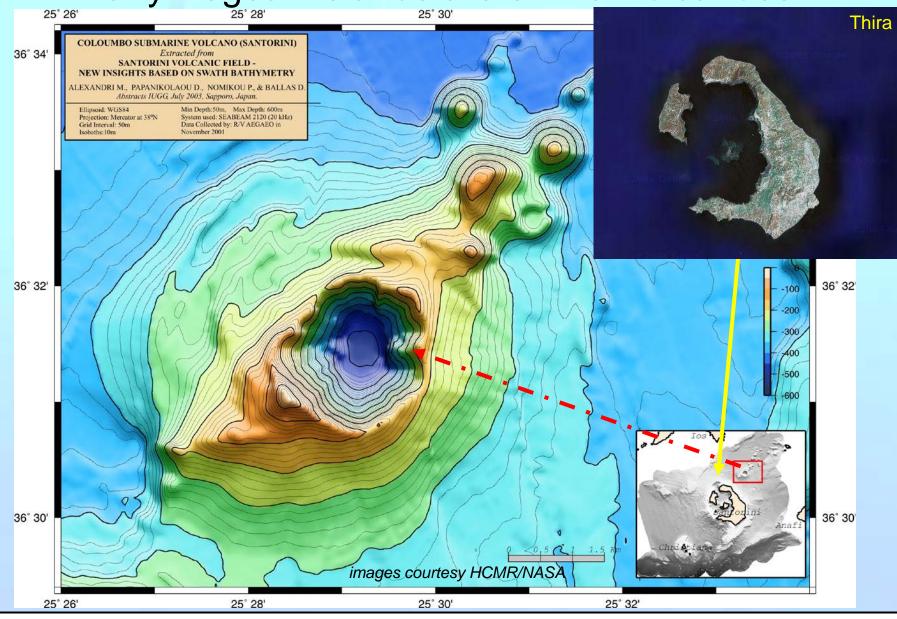


## **Technology Enables Science**

- Oceanography
  - Geochemistry of volcanic seabed regions
- Archaeology
  - Ancient wrecks in the "sea of Odysseus"
- Exploration methodology
  - Comparative data sets help distinguish wrecks from rocks
  - Rapid mapping techniques allow those data sets to become statistically meaningful
  - In situ sensors allow rapid evolution of science mission

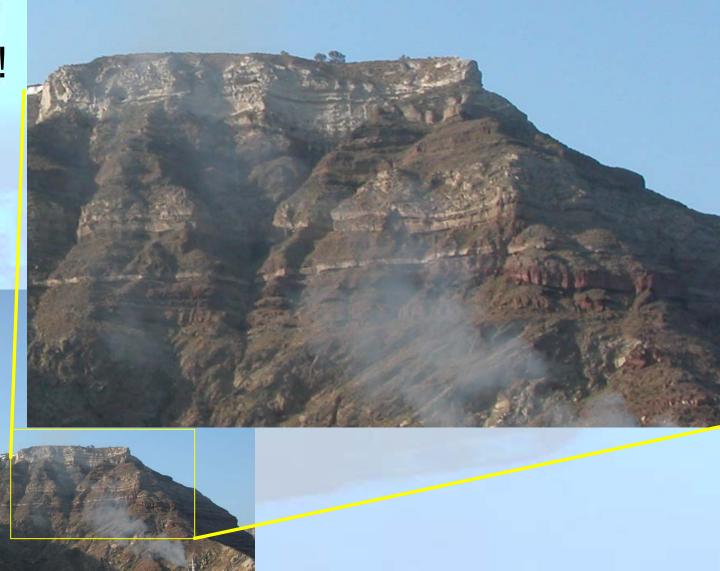


Many Aegean islands are extinct volcanoes





Geology everywhere!

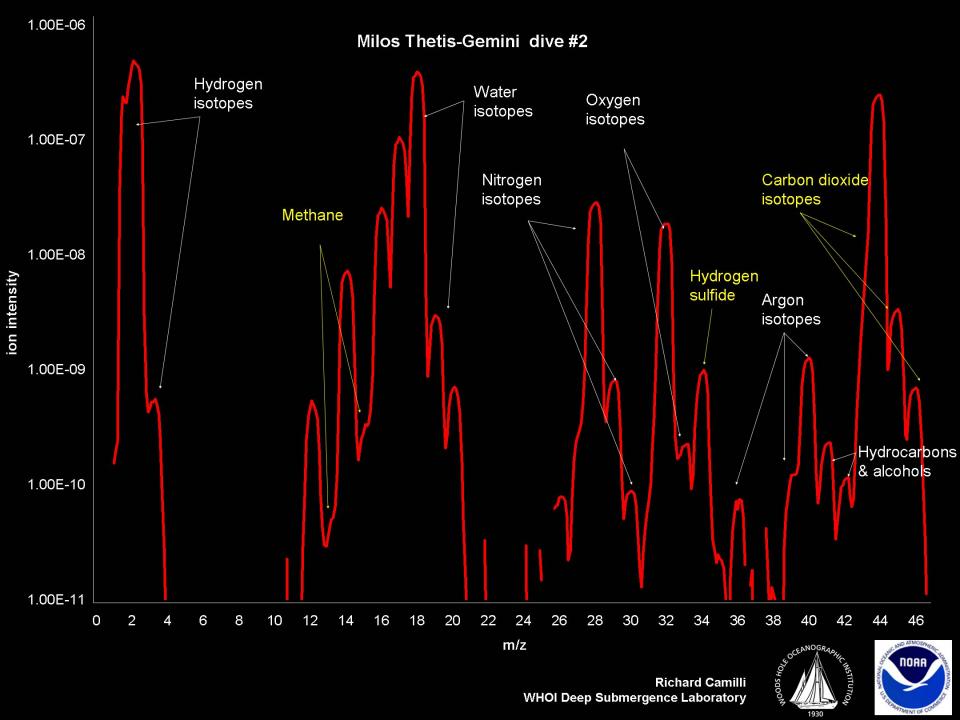




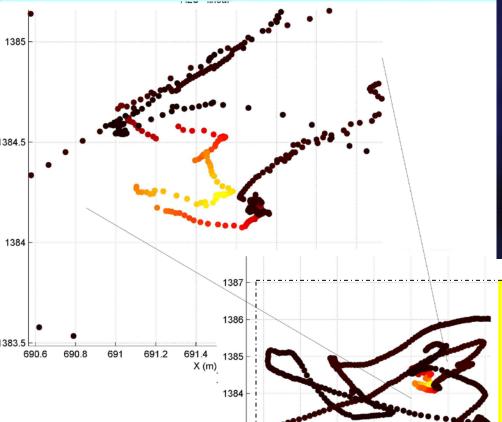


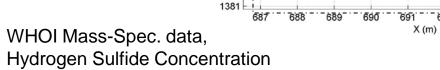






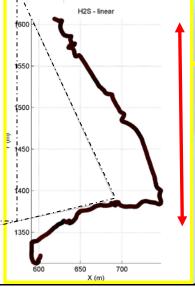
## A question of scale





1382

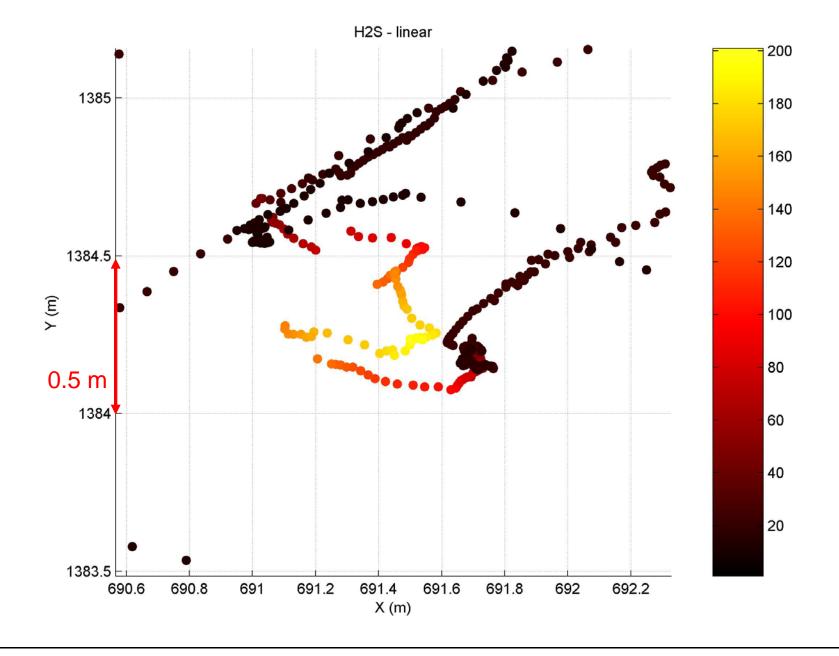




250 m

data plots courtesy WHOI/Olin College







## Technology (instrument & navigation) enabled:

- Discovery of cold seeps "undiscoverable" by other means
- Verification (negative data) of vent/seep activity within Milos caldera
- "Discovery" of non-chemically active region (thought to be vents) in Thira caldera
- Chemical "mapping" of Andros shipwreck



## Shipwreck Survey



- Limited ship time due to permit delays
- Weathered out of ancient site at Kythnos
- Backup site at Andros was "occupied"
- What to do?



## 1) Clear the site

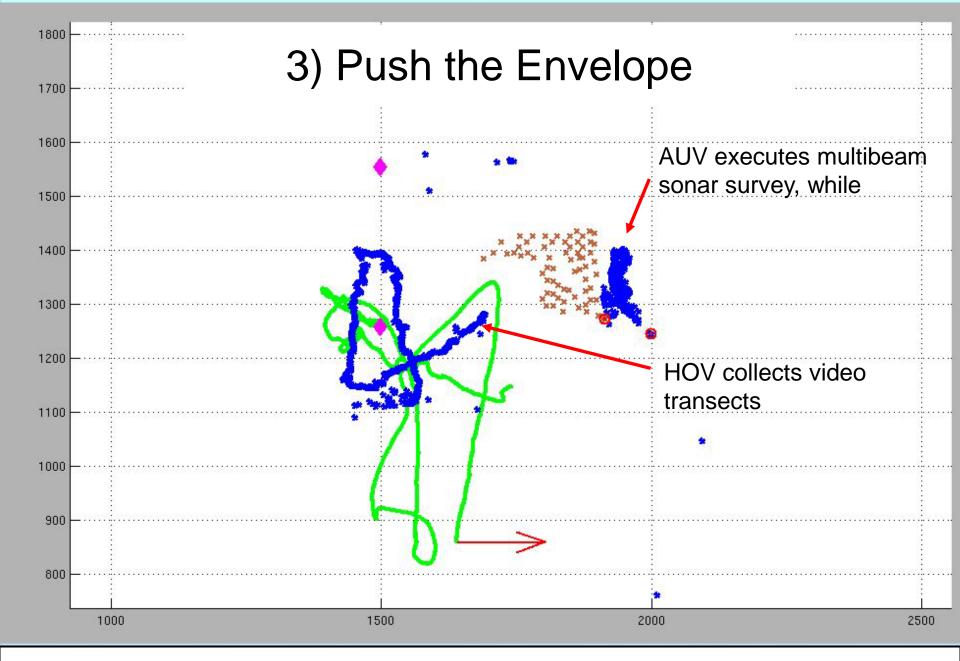




## 2) Improvise









## First Known Combined HOV/AUV Survey



- Two complete video surveys (HOV)
- One chemical survey/map (HOV)
- Two multibeam sonar surveys (AUV)
- All in less than 18 hours!



## What is it good for?

- Currently no data products from 2006 available
  - Processing underway
  - Greek Ministry of Culture restricts release of images and data
- 2005 results
  - Integrated camera/sonar on AUV
  - Ancient wreck
  - But lacking chemical survey data



## Ancient shipwreck becomes modern habitat





## Multiple images provide context

1) Individual images collected by SeaBED every 3 seconds



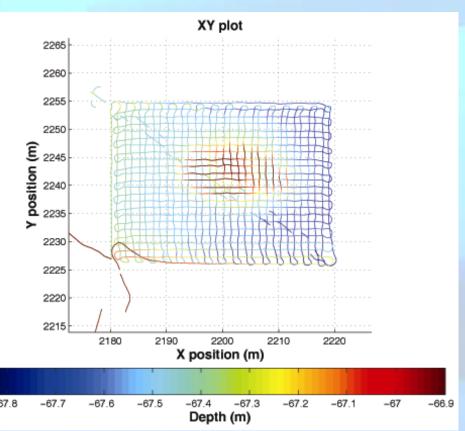
2) later assembled into photomosaic strips with automated software

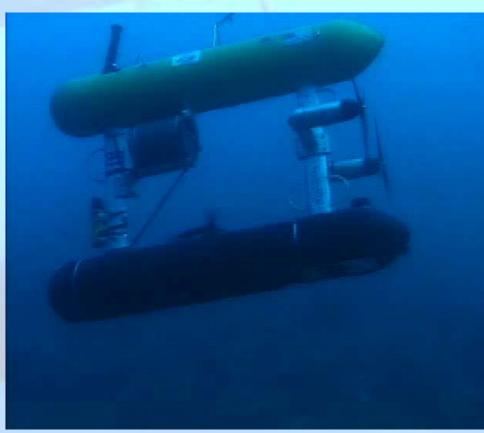


images courtesy WHOI/HCMR/EUA (2005 Expedition)



## Precision Navigation and Control are Critical

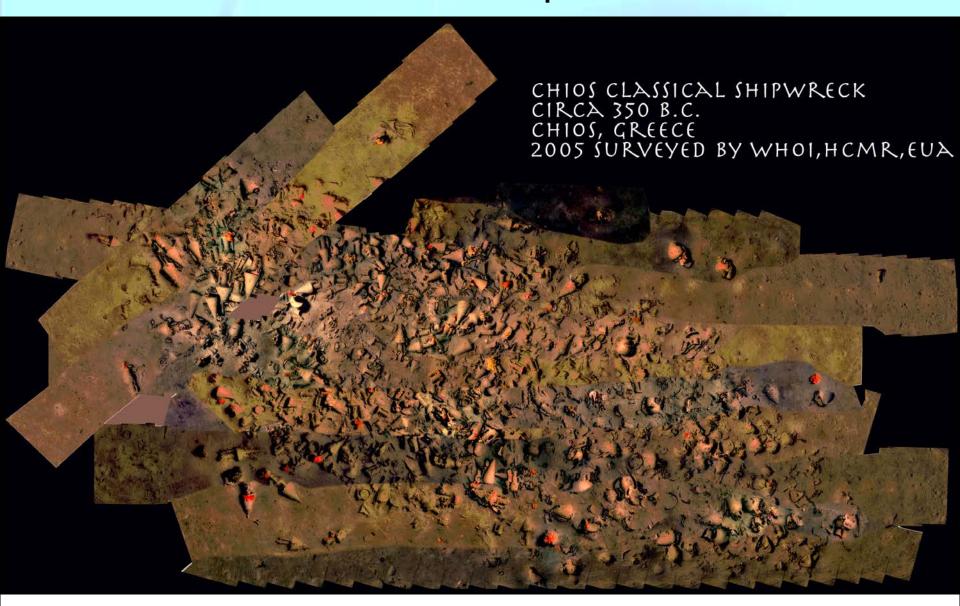




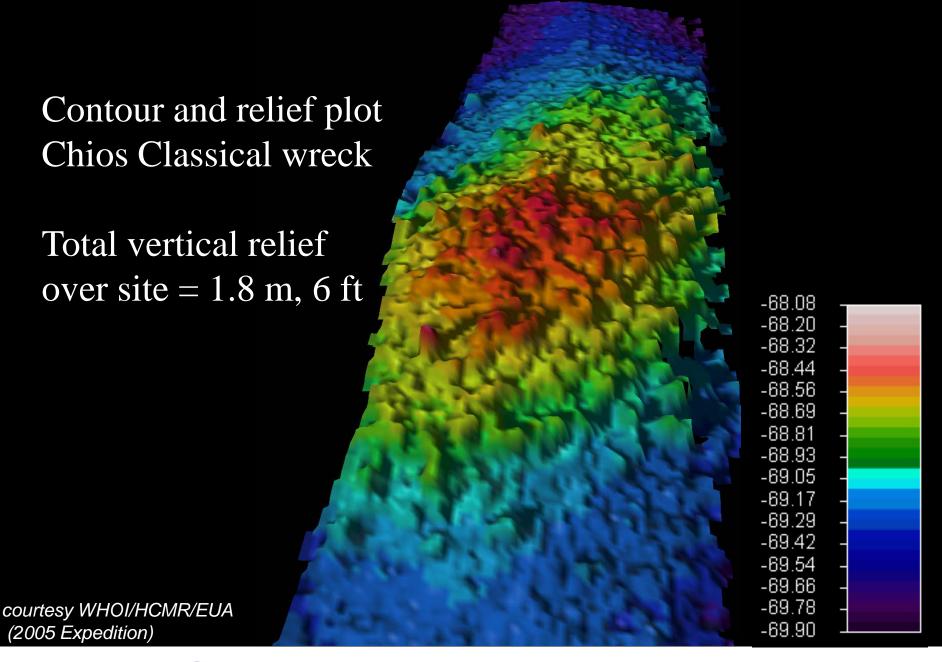
images courtesy WHOI/HCMR/EUA (2005 Expedition)



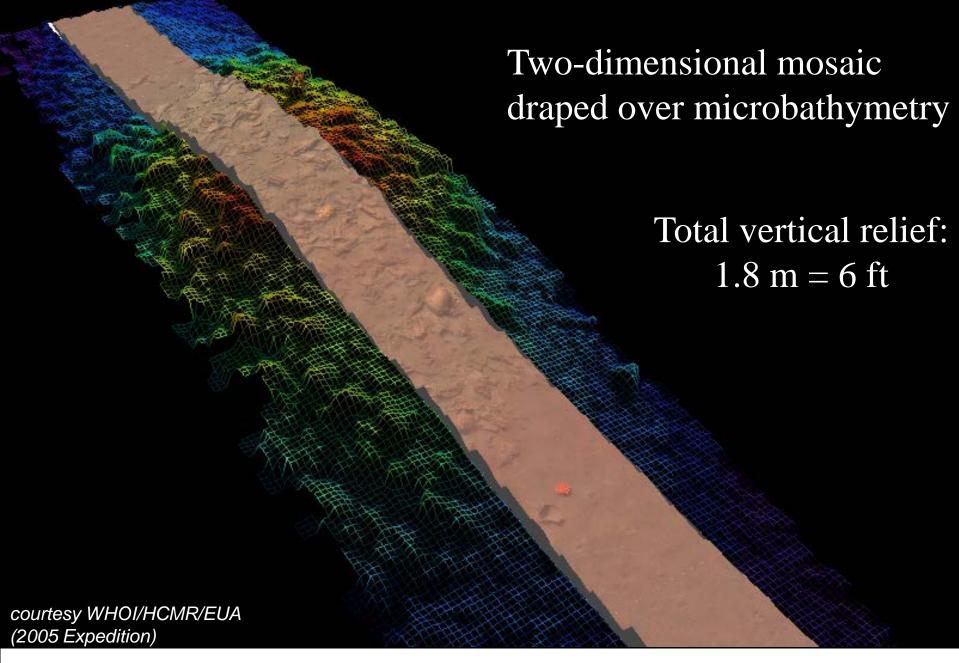
## Results are impressive













## Next Steps

- Combine all three technologies
  - In situ chemical sensing
  - Multibeam survey
  - Photomosaics
- Refine the one-way-travel time navigation
- Perfect the data product (and create new ones)
- Rinse and repeat
  - Collect new statistical data on wrecks distributed across the Mediterranean Sea
  - Apply to global oceanographic subjects as well



## **Beyond Ocean Exploration**

- Environmental monitoring
  - Habitat maps combining bathymetry and in situ oceanographic data (backed up by QA/QC via traditional methods)
- Offshore oil
  - Dissolved gas sensing is possible in situ
    - Reduced time to leak detection/repair
    - Improved prospecting
- Defense/Homeland Security
  - Unexploded ordinance detection
  - Improvised marine IEDs
  - Narcotics



